

RESISTANCE

President Reagan's chief civil-rights officer warns the Congress that legislation to nullify the Supreme Court's *Grove City* decision will "stretch the tentacles of the federal government into every crevice of public and private-sector activity."

See Page 10.

REACTION

In some areas, a backlash is beginning to develop against policies that encourage participation in extra-curricular activities to academic achievement.

See Page 5.



REMEMBRANCE

A look back at the turbulent, divisive, sometimes violent Boston desegregation case as it draws to a close after 12 years.

See Page 12.



EDUCATION WEEK

American Education's Newspaper of Record

Volume IV, Number 25 • March 13, 1985

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Increasing Reliance on Testing Spurs Congressional Review

By Sheppard Ransom

WASHINGTON—Bipartisan interest in the uses of standardized tests in education has led the Congress to launch its own study of their validity and applications.

The ambitious \$200,000 study, launched in January by the Office of Technology Assessment (O.T.A.), one of four investigative arms of the Congress, is intended to serve as a guide for federal policymakers to determine what steps the government might take to sponsor, monitor, or enhance the use of tests in education.

The study comes at a time when state officials, responding to pressure to improve student performance, are expanding mandated testing programs for promotion and graduation as well as for evaluation. And it reflects a variety of Congressional concerns—from the question of how testing affects minority students to that of whether tests intrude inappropriately into the personal values of students.

"There is growing interest in the Congress in linking federal funding assistance to student performance and other numerical indicators," wrote Senator Orrin G. Hatch, Republican of Utah and chairman of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, in a letter to O.T.A.'s director, John H. Gibbons.

At the same time, another research arm of the Congress, the Congressional Budget Office, has been reviewing indicators of academic achievement in the United States at the request of Senator Robert T. Stafford, Republican of Vermont and chairman of the Senate education subcommittee. The C.B.O.'s report is to be released sometime this spring.

The year-long O.T.A. study received initial support from Senators Hatch and Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, the ranking Democrat on the Labor and Human Resources Committee, after it was brought to their attention by the O.T.A.'s project director, Richard Thoreson. Mr. Thoreson told the lawmakers his agency wanted to do more work in assessing educational technology and thought Congressional interest warranted a study of testing. In his statement of support to Mr. Gibbons last summer, Senator Hatch—the author of a controversial law to limit the psychological testing of students—said he was concerned about the potential invasion of

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Gardner



Finn



Senese



Justiz

Groups Boycott Rights Panel's Hearings To Protest 'Repugnant' Public Remarks

By Tom Mirga

WASHINGTON—The chairman of a House committee and several prominent civil-rights groups boycotted a U. S. Commission on Civil Rights hearing on affirmative action last week, saying that recent controversial statements by the panel's chairman and vice chairman had rendered the event "farfetched and meaningless."

"You don't deserve my response to any question, my recognition, or my respect," Representative Parren J. Mitchell, Democrat of Maryland, said to Clarence M. Pendleton Jr., the commission's chairman, before walking out of the March 6 hearing.

Representative Mitchell, who heads the House Small Business Committee and whose family has long been associated with the civil-rights movement, called Mr. Pendleton "a lackey" of the Reagan Administration during an impromptu press conference following his walkout.

Chairman Unperturbed

Mr. Pendleton appeared unperturbed by the boycott, telling reporters, "I am prepared to stand by my record." In a speech delivered a day before the hearing, he called leaders of many civil-rights groups "the new racists," adding that preferential

Continued on Page 11

E.D. Aides Resign, Clearing Way For Bennett's Team

First Staff Moves Target Key Research Functions

By James Hertling

WASHINGTON—Secretary of Education William J. Bennett, moving to reform the Education Department's research agencies, last week obtained the resignations of the department's two top research officials, according to department sources.

Mr. Bennett has also sought to establish within his own office a "think-tank," which would be headed by Terry H. Eastland, until recently a special assistant to former Attorney General William French Smith.

As part of the first major personnel shake-up since Mr. Bennett came to the department, sources said last week, General Counsel Maureen Corcoran will step down, to be replaced by Sherrie M. Cooksey, who now works in the White House as an associate counsel to the President. Another associate counsel to the President, Wendell L. Willkie 2nd, recently became Mr. Bennett's chief of staff.

Gary L. Bauer, the deputy under

Continued on Page 11

Reagan Panel Warns High Dropout Rate Threatens Business

By James Hertling

WASHINGTON—A Presidential panel has warned that the high rate of high-school dropouts, particularly among minority groups, poses a major threat to American society and industry.

The President's Commission on Industrial Competitiveness—composed of business executives, labor leaders, and educators—warned: "The nation must act decisively to reduce the dropout rate dramatically . . . or part of an entire generation could be lost to the productive process and to society."

The commission's report was released last month, shortly after a national study by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching that cited the high cost to business of educating employees who lack basic skills. (See *Education Week*, Jan. 30, 1985.) But the commission's findings on

Continued on Page 14

'Centralized Plans' Said No Panacea

Independent Schools Fear Reforms Threaten Their Autonomy

By Blake Rodman

WASHINGTON—In the face of a school-reform movement that has prompted explicit new state directives concerning instructional matters, leaders of independent schools fear they could lose their independence.

Panelists at the annual conference of the National Association of Independent Schools, held here this month, reported a tendency on the part of state lawmakers to

"lump" nonpublic and public schools together in school-reform legislation, promoting a uniformity that may be undesirable.

"Independent schools should be able to determine their own curriculum," Stephen Hinrichs, executive director of the New York State Association of Independent Schools, said in an interview last week. "It is important to maintain educational diversity in the state. Different kids need different schools."

Speaking at a session on the changing re-

lationships between state governments and independent schools, Thomas Read, president of the Central States, listed several reasons for state lawmakers' increasing focus on education: Highly publicized reports have detailed the shortcomings of public schools, and the growth of home education and fundamentalist schools has presented states with regulatory problems.

"The potential for spillover of intrusive

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IN SUMMARY

Beginning of a Backlash?

In the past year, a growing number of states and school districts have moved to limit students' participation in extracurricular activities, but the reform has provoked vigorous dissents. Story on Page 5.

Mounting Tension

At week's end, Mississippi's wildcat strike in defiance of a court order had spread to more than 50 school districts, idling some 9,000 teachers and 168,000 pupils. Story on Page 8.

Increasing Aid

Like so many of their counterparts this year, the governors of Florida and North Carolina have pledged to continue pressing for school reform and to increase education budgets. Story on Page 8.

Offering Aid

As the Administration pushes for major cuts in student grants and loans, the Army launches an advertising campaign using the promise of increased college aid to attract recruits. Story on Page 9.

Stretching the 'Tentacles'

The Administration's William Bradford Reynolds calls proposed legislation to nullify the U. S. Supreme Court's *Grove City* decision "one of the most far-reaching" bills in memory. Story on Page 10.

Criticizing the Court

The U. S. Justice Department said a federal court exceeded its remedial powers by ordering three school districts in Little Rock to merge in a desegregation case. Story on Page 10.

A Matter of Choice

Secretary of Education William J. Bennett tells the Congress that tuition tax credits are needed to end the "virtual monopoly" of public schools. Story on Page 10.

The End of an Era

After 12 years of turbulence and dissension, the lawsuit over desegregation of Boston's public schools appears to be drawing to a close. Story on Page 12.

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EDUCATION WEEK (ISSN 0277-4332) is published 42 times per year (weekly except for the first week in January, the last week in June, the month of July, the first two weeks in August, and the last two weeks in December) by Editorial Projects in Education, Incorporated. Editorial and advertising sales offices are located at 1255 23rd Street, N.W., Suite 775, Washington, D.C. 20037. (202) 466-5190. Subscriptions: U.S. and Canada: \$39.94 for 42 issues. Foreign: \$85.94 (airmail) and \$56.44 (surface mail) for 42 issues. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to EDUCATION WEEK, P.O. Box 1939, Marion, Ohio 43305. Volume IV, Issue 25.

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Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 466-5190

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Subscription Problems,
and Changes of Address
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Display Advertising Only

Grants to help establish Education Week have been made by the following philanthropic foundations: Atlantic Richfield Foundation, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Cleveland Foundation, Denver Foundation, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Exxon Education Foundation, Faye McBeath Foundation, Frost Foundation, George Gund Foundation, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Kettering Family Fund, Itasca Foundation, Esther A. and Joseph Klingenstein Fund, Lilly Endowment, William Penn Foundation, Permanent Charities Fund of Boston, Sid W. Richardson Foundation, Rhode Island Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, San Francisco Foundation, Shell Companies Foundation, Standard Oil of Ohio, Tinker Foundation.

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One year (42 issues) . . . \$39.94. Two years: \$69.00. Three years: \$99.00. Outside the U.S. and Canada . . . \$56.44 per year for surface mail and \$85.94 per year for airmail. Send subscription correspondence to: Education Week, P.O. Box 1939, Marion, Ohio 43305.

Back issues are available at \$3.00 each (first class postage pre-paid). Send order to: Back Issues, Education Week, Suite 775, 1255 23rd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

THE WEEK

FEDERAL

Secretary Moves
To Put Pinch
On Loan Defaulters

To reduce the number of regulations involving colleges and universities and to get more people to repay their overdue National Direct Student Loans, Secretary of Educa-

tion William J. Bennett has proposed changes in regulations governing the program.

Proposed rules appearing in the Feb. 26 *Federal Register* would require institutions to follow existing guidelines on collection and also to use "any additional collection measures" normally used for securing repayment of other amounts owed the institution, such as parking fees, book bills, and overdue tuition accounts.

The proposals would require institutions to withhold transcripts and deny loan defaulters further stu-

dent or alumni benefits.

Among other changes, the proposals call for reducing the number of notices sent a borrower during grace periods, streamlining billing procedures, and eliminating the requirement that an institution telephone or personally contact a borrower to determine why payment has not been made.

The rules also would require institutions to refer information regarding defaulted accounts to at least one credit bureau and encourage colleges to file claims against loan defaulters in small-claims court.

NATIONAL

Consulting Group
To Study Youth
Jobs Programs

A Philadelphia consulting firm has received more than \$1 million in grants to conduct two studies examining the effectiveness of various youth-employment programs.

Public-Private Ventures, a non-profit corporation that designs, manages, and analyzes programs to help disadvantaged youths enter the job market, will undertake both studies in an effort to address the problems created by the high rate of youth unemployment, said Natalie Jaffe, a spokesman for the firm.

As of January, 18.9 percent of teen-agers between the ages of 16 and 19 were unemployed, according to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Unemployment rates for inner-city teen-agers run as high as 40 percent.

One of the studies, funded by a \$550,000 grant from the Ford Foundation, will examine the effectiveness of state and local youth conservation corps. The programs, which operate in about 30 states and localities, enroll youths 18 years old and older to work on projects that benefit their communities.

The second of the studies, funded at \$510,000 by a consortium of foundations, including the Exxon Educa-

tion Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, will focus on school-business partnerships that provide entry-level jobs for students after they graduate.

The firm plans to publish its findings in a series of papers in 1985 and 1986, she said.

Union's Analysis
Cites Proposed Cuts
For States, Localities

The Reagan Administration's proposed fiscal 1986 budget would cut federal aid to state and local governments by 14.1 percent, or \$13.8 billion, from the spending levels needed to maintain current levels of services, according to an analysis released last week by the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, which represents about 1.4 million public-sector employees.

According to the analysis, prepared by a Washington-based firm called Fiscal Planning Services, 75 percent of domestic social-services spending cuts would come out of money earmarked for state and local governments.

State politicians have claimed in recent months that the federal government is trying to balance its budget on the backs of states, many of which are operating with budget surpluses. (See *Education Week*, March 6, 1985.)

The AFSCME analysis criticizes sharp cuts in postsecondary-student aid, child-nutrition programs, gen-

eral-revenue sharing, library construction, and juvenile-justice programs.

Carnegie Foundation
Awards Grants to
U.S. Schools Abroad

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has awarded high-school-improvement grants to six American high schools abroad in a new program designed to involve those schools in the reform movement.

The \$3,000 grants—given to schools that have demonstrated the potential to advance curriculum, teaching and learning, technology, community support, and other aspects of their programs—were awarded last week at the annual meeting of the Association for the Advancement of International Education, which administers the program.

American schools in Brazil, Columbia, Germany, Greece, Japan, and Kenya received awards, according to Ernest L. Boyer, president of the foundation. More than 26,000 U. S. students attend American schools abroad. Thirty-four schools had applied to receive the grants.

The Carnegie Foundation, with support from the Atlantic Richfield Foundation, last year gave awards to 200 high schools in the United States for taking steps to improve their programs. In April, grants of \$25,000 or more will be awarded to 25 to 30 high schools for school-improvement activities.

STATES

Teachers' Union
Attacks New York
Tax-Credit Plan

A New York State teachers' union has denounced a proposal that would permit state taxpayers to deduct educational expenses at public and private schools from their taxable income.

Thomas Hobart, president of the New York State United Teachers, an

affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, issued a statement calling the plan "a shameful scheme to put public tax money into the hands of the wealthy and deal a crippling blow to New York's public-school system."

Under the tax plan, proposed by Senator John J. Marchi, a Republican and chairman of the finance committee, parents could claim a \$20 standard deduction for each child in school, or itemize deductions for such educational expenses as tuition, textbooks, supplies, and transportation up to \$650 for students in grades K-8 and up to \$1,000 for students in grades 9-12.

The plan, which Mr. Marchi esti-

mated would cost the state \$45 million a year in lost revenue, is intended to aid parochial and other non-public schools in the state, said Jerry McLaughlin, a spokesman for Mr. Marchi.

According to Mr. Hobart, private education is, and should remain, an alternative system. "It should not be supported by public tax dollars, any more than the person who chooses a private country club over a municipal golf course should be subsidized by the state," he said.

Similar bills were under consideration in at least 17 states a year ago, following the U.S. Supreme Court's 1983 decision, in *Mueller v. Allen*, upholding a tuition-tax-deduction

law in Minnesota. (See *Education Week*, March 7, 1984.)

Prichard Committee Urges Changes In School Curricula

A 70-member citizens' panel that has been in the forefront of a grass-roots school-reform movement in Kentucky has released a number of its recommendations for improving the state's public schools.

The proposals were developed following 145 forums that the committee held around the state last fall.

The recommendations urge the state to require that high-school students earn their diplomas on the basis of demonstrated competencies. Schools, the group says, should use a series of measures—including tests, essays, teacher recommendations, presentations, and portfolios—to determine whether their students have mastered high-school-level work. It also recommends that all students be required to perform community service.

The proposals call for requiring

prospective teachers to have an extra year of training to give them more practical experience. The state should develop an incentive-pay plan and extended contracts, and allow greater opportunity for teachers to plan courses, the report says.

The panel also urges that there be stiffer certification and evaluation requirements for administrators and that school-board candidates undergo optional orientation programs.

The segment of the report dealing with higher education, vocational education, school finance, and the condition of children will be released late this month.

The committee's work will continue after the final report is released.

"We have a long-range agenda," according to Robert F. Sexton, executive director of the group, who said that the committee will be around until school reform in Kentucky is complete.

The committee has raised more than \$300,000 in private contributions during the past two years and has continued its work in spite of a major setback—the death last December of its chairman, Edward F. Prichard Jr., a Lexington lawyer.

during an indoor track meet at Tilden High School.

The injured student, Dwayne Hicks of Lindblom High School, slipped and fell into a concrete platform supporting a row of lockers while running the anchor leg of the 800-meter relay during a dual meet, according to school officials.

Following the incident, the Chicago Board of Education temporarily canceled all indoor track meets and all practices that involve running in the corridors, where indoor track meets have been held for generations, according to Orpen W. Bryan, deputy school superintendent for field management.

The board has appointed a special committee to review the safety of indoor track. A final report is due within three weeks, Mr. Bryan said.

Court Rejects Claim That Assigned Book Infringed on Rights

A federal appeals court has rejected the argument of a Spokane, Wash., woman who claimed a book her daughter was assigned to read in a high-school English class infringed on her religious rights.

The woman, Carolyn Grove, argued that *The Learning Tree*—a novel about a teen-age black boy by Gordon Parks—should be removed from the Mead School District curriculum because it violated the religion clauses of the First Amendment, said Jordan W. Lorence, one of the lawyers who helped prepare Ms. Grove's case.

"The book presents the Christian faith as a bunch of baloney; it violates religious neutrality," Mr. Lorence said. "If the Bible should be removed from schools because it promotes religion, then this book should be removed because it disparages religion."

The U. S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the lower court's ruling, which found no merit to her argument, Mr. Lorence said.

The principal lawyer on the case, Michael P. Farris, general counsel for Concerned Women for America in Washington, D. C., intends to appeal the decision to the U. S. Supreme Court, Mr. Lorence added.

RESEARCH AND REPORTS

Researcher Finds Today's Students 'Radically' Changed

Basing her analysis on a variety of statistics from government and private sources, an education researcher concludes in a new monograph that "there have been radical changes—very often unrecognized—in the American school population today, measured against the data of 15 years ago."

"Today we deal with a new kind of child," writes Emily Feistritzer, director of the National Center for Education Information, a private publishing organization, "from a different background, with a different set of values, hopes, and dreams." To be effective, she argues in "Cheating Our Children: Why We Need School Reform," changes proposed for the schools must take these changes into account.

Among her findings:

- The population under 5 grew at three times the national rate between 1980 and 1983.

- One in five children live below the poverty level.

- One in five children live with one parent, and half of these are poor.

- The number of female heads of household has doubled since 1970 and tripled since 1960; one-third of such women live below the poverty level.

- Income is directly related to educational level; among students, achievement levels and family-income levels are directly correlated.

Copies of the report, which includes tabular material, are available for \$14.95 from the N.C.E.I., Suite 707, 1901 Pennsylvania Ave., N. W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Excellence Requires Adequate Research, Report Suggests

Schools will move "beyond risk to obsolescence" if the education profession fails to receive adequate support for research, according to a recent report by the National Academy of Education in Pittsburgh.

"We are urged toward excellence but observe that, despite inspiring instances of professional excellence, the education profession is seriously undernourished by modern advances in knowledge," said Robert Glaser, president of the academy and director of the University of Pittsburgh's Learning Research and Development Center, in releasing the report.

The report, "Improving Education: Perspectives on Educational Research," contains essays from several prominent educators, including James S. Coleman, the University of Chicago sociologist, Harold Howe 2nd, former U. S. commissioner of education, and Lee Shulman, a professor at Stanford University.

The essays focus on the place of research in policymaking and outline areas in which research on learning and schooling are making significant advances that could be critical to the long-term prospects for educational reform.

The academy's report is in response to recent national reports on education, such as the National Commission on Excellence in Education's "A Nation at Risk," Mr. Glaser said.

Copies of the report are available from the National Academy of Education, L.R.D.C. Building, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15260.

DISTRICTS

Mississippi Student Returns to Class With One Earring

A student who was suspended for wearing an earring in school has been allowed to return to classes with the earring and with the three-day suspension removed from his record.

Bill McCord, assistant superintendent for student services for the DeSoto (Miss.) County Board of Education, said lawyers for the student and the school board reached an agreement last week.

Mr. McCord said the school's dress code allows the principal to suspend a student for wearing anything that can be construed as "disruptive dress." He said that after the meeting, it was determined that the earring was not disruptive.

The 11th grader, Aubrey Jacobson, had been suspended from the Southaven High School on Feb. 11 for wearing the earring. When he attempted to return to class the next day, the principal, J. R. Baird, signed an affidavit to have him arrested for trespassing. The trespassing charges were also dropped, Mr. McCord said.

Chicago Board Bans Indoor Track Following Accident

A Chicago high-school student remained in serious condition last week after receiving internal injuries while running in the hallways

UPDATE

The New York State Board of Regents last month banned the use of corporal punishment in public schools, despite advice from state-education-department lawyers that the regents do not have the authority to do so. (See *Education Week*, Jan. 9, 1985.)

Prior to the regents' action, the use of corporal punishment was up to individual school districts. About one-third of New York's districts and boards of cooperative educational services currently prohibit the use of corporal punishment, according to state officials.

"No teacher, administrator, officer, employee, or agent of a school district in this state, or a board of co-

operative educational services in this state, shall use corporal punishment against a pupil," the new regulation states.

The regulation also states that it will be legal for school employees to use "reasonable" force to protect themselves, students, and school property.

Robert D. Stone, counsel to the New York Education Department, had advised the regents prior to the adoption of the new regulation that since corporal punishment is permissible under state law, only the legislature can outlaw the practice.

The Idaho Senate has shelved a bill that would amend the state's compulsory-education law to allow parents to educate their children at home if they make "a good faith effort" to instruct them in reading, writ-

ing, mathematics, history, and civics.

The proposal had passed in the House by a wide margin earlier in February. (See *Education Week*, Feb. 20, 1985.)

The Senate education committee voted to hold the bill and late last month drafted a resolution calling for a study of the home-schooling controversy.

The National Science Foundation has published guidelines for grant proposals in science education that reiterate the agency's shift in focus under Bassam Z. Shakhshiri, the new assistant director for science and engineering education. (See *Education Week*, Feb. 13, 1985.)

The guidelines, published in the Feb. 22 *Federal Register*, announce the agency's intent to focus "espe-

Continued on Following Page

A Future Where All the Children Are Above Average



Sixth-grade students in Minneapolis and St. Paul have seen the future—and it looks pretty good.

Although nearly half of the 11- and 12-year-olds surveyed in an 18-month study said they fear that a nuclear war or other manmade catastrophe will destroy the world, 86

percent said there is a good chance to reverse the trend and build a world "very different from and far better from the one we know now."

"They are optimistic, but they are realistic, too," said Ruthanne Kurth-Schai, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota's Col-

lege of Education who conducted the study for her dissertation.

The 154 students surveyed said they think life in the future will be better than it is now, Ms. Kurth-Schai reports. According to the students, robots will relieve mankind of work, families will live in outer space, people will be more intelligent, and men and women will share responsibilities more equitably.

But the youngsters said they fear the environment will suffer. "Most of nature will be destroyed to make room for people on Earth," one of them wrote.

Surprisingly, Ms. Kurth-Schai said, the media appear to have little influence on the youngsters' view of the future. They attributed their views to their own intuition, their religious beliefs, and the influence of their parents.

It is important to study children's views of the future, the researcher said, because "how people perceive the future has a major impact on how they behave in the present." Children can also offer "creative, unique ideas," she added.

Correction

The 50-state reform-initiatives survey in the Feb. 6 issue of *Education Week* incorrectly reported that a bill to establish a career-ladder plan in Iowa was vetoed by the governor in 1984. The governor vetoed a bill that would have changed jurisdiction over teacher certification in the state.